

**Hopedale Unitarian Universalist**  
**Commission on Opportunities**

Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2008

Attendees

Robert Bell	Peter Carels	Patty Klingenberg
Tom Wright	Evelyn Ruth Thompson	Carol Sroczyński
Eunice Meadows (guest)	Jerry Thompson (guest)	

The meeting started around 7:15 pm.

The group voted Robert Bell as Chair.

E. R. described contents of binder that was prepared for everyone.

Copies of Results from the Evaluation of Shared Ministry Survey need to be procured for those on the commission who do not already have a copy.

The group went around the table and spoke to why they volunteered to be on the commission and their perspective on the role/purpose/goal of the commission. Some of the themes that were brought up were: consensus, options to be offered to community, congregational aging, who are we now and why are we the way we are, openness of the process, and quality growth of the community.

There was discussion about consultants that could come and help the commission. Mary Ann Williams and Richard Torstrick are able to make a conference call with the commission. They could help with the process of consensus building, keeping the process positive and open, how to elicit community input. Julie Denny Hughes was mentioned as someone who could talk about how to grow a congregation. E.R. will follow up with Julie to see about adding consulting services to her fee when she comes to give worship message.

There was discussion on the schedule of the commission's charge. The board wants regular updates. The goal is to have a proposal for the congregation to vote on at the Spring Congregational Meeting.

Discussion on ways to keep the process open, elicit community input and communicate commission's progress to the community: suggestion box in Hopedale building (E.R.), website blog (T.W.), short text in Sunday Bulletin (R.B.), short text to be included in "This Week at Hopedale" emails (R.B.), research on UUA resources (P.C.).

It was suggested that we find out the progress of Nancy Combs Morgan's work and get a report on membership trends and attendance for the last 5 years.

Homework for everyone was to read the information in the binder and re-read the email from the board about our charge.

Next meeting was set for Wednesday, January 16 at 5:30. Carol Sroczynski agreed to be the scribe.

(over)

## AGENDA

January 16, 2008 @ 5:30 pm

- Talk about Julie Denny Hughes visit and meeting for January 20, after service
- Discuss readings:
  - o What do you see as the big questions before us (the community)?
- A mission statement for the commission
- Consensus:
  - o Is our community covenant rule by majority or consensus?
  - o Our charge is to reach consensus.
  - o What is it? How do we, as a commission, understand it?

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## **RE: Finance Cmte Report**

**From:** peter carels <carelspe@hotmail.com>

**To:** lwoedl@earthlink.net

**Subject:** RE: Finance Cmte Report

**Date:** Jan 15, 2008 8:40 PM

Here's what I'd include as my report, Liz.

Housing and Property: nothing new to report.

Finance: The Finance Cmte met Jan 3 to do the audit, and completed that task. The committee would like to work on the proposed budget for next year and is asking the VPs to turn in their committee budget requests before their next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, FEB. 5th, so the canvass committee will have something to work with. A reminder is being sent to the VPs.

Peter